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L10: Entry 2 of 3

File: USPT

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DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6182229 B1

TITLE: Password helper using a client-side master password which automatically presents the appropriate server-side password in a particular remote server

Brief Summary Text (11):

In one embodiment, the remote servers are controlled access WWW sites. The client system, coupled to the remote servers via the Internet, includes a WWW browser. The WWW browser is extended in accordance with the invention to incorporate special capabilities for assisting the user with accessing WWW sites which require authentication. No modification to the remote servers is required in this embodiment.

Brief Summary Text (12):

A WWW browser modified in accordance with the invention may maintain a password database that includes entries holding the URL, encrypted user ID, and encrypted password for a plurality of remote sites. When a new browsing session begins, the WWW browser may prompt the user for the master password upon the start of a new browsing session and store it. Then, when an authentication request message is received from a remote site that the user is seeking to access, the browser scans the password database for the URL of that remote site. If an entry is found, the browser decrypts the password and user ID and forwards them to that remote site. This can all occur without presenting the usual authentication form to the user. For enhanced security, instead of storing the master password, the browser may prompt the user for it every time it is needed.

Detailed Description Text (7):

The present invention provides a system for managing password access to a plurality of remote servers such as remote web sites. This password management system is preferably implemented as an applet, e.g., a segment of executable computer code downloadable from a network and executed as part of a larger program, to be used in conjunction with HotJava.RTM. or other Java-enhanced browsers. Of course, the password management features of the present invention could also be directly incorporated into a browser program. The remote servers need not be modified to provide these features.

Detailed Description Text (11):

For enhanced security, the user can choose by, e.g., setting a preference, to never store the master password and step 304 is skipped. Instead, the user is prompted for the master password whenever it is needed. This provides enhanced security in that unauthorized persons will not be able to access remote sites when client computer system 10 is left unattended with its browser software running.

Detailed Description Text (15):

The user now has access to the remote web site. The user is preferably not even made aware of the authentication steps. If the user now selects a second controlled access web site, the process depicted in FIG. 3 repeats.

Detailed Description Text (30):

The present invention is not limited to the WWW or the Internet. Remote servers could be identified within a password database with identifiers other than their

URLs. A database of dial-up bulletin boards could be maintained with telephone numbers identifying each remote server. A mixed database could also be maintained including both web sites and other remote servers requiring passwords for access.